THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Sri Lanka showed interest in setting up concrete sleeper plant. An offer was submitted by IRCON (a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways) to Govt. of Sri Lanka in 1994.

There is no offer for implementation of rail track projects in Sri Lanka by the Government.

(b) Government of Sri Lanka has informed that based on reviews of their requirement they have pended the proposal for setting up of concrete sleeper plant.

*[English]*

**Survey for Laying Down New Rail Line in Nandyal-Yerraguntla Section**

5205. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying down new rail lines in Nandyal-Yerraguntla section under South-Central Railway is proposed to be taken up;

(b) if so, the time by which the above survey work is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) the approximate funds sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The survey for Nandyal-Yerraguntla section has already been completed and based on this survey the work has been included in the Budget.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 3.78 lakhs has been spent on the survey.

*[Translation]*

**Allotment of STD/PCO Booths**

5206. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD/PCO booths allotted to the handicapped and unemployed persons are being illegally run by other persons;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any connivance of the Telecom employees has been detected in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details for the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

*[English]*

**Functioning of Rural/Urban Telephones**

5207. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the functioning of telephones in urban areas and rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have imparted training to the linemen to handle the latest technology to ensure prompt and efficient service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The linemen cadre has been re-structured into the cadre of phone machanic. The phone machanics are being imparted 8 weeks training including the latest technology. However, Linemen who have not opted for Phone Mechanics cadre, are being imparted a 3-week training to upgrade their skill.

**Rush of Passengers on New Delhi-Palwal Route**

5208. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy load of daily passengers on Palwal-New Delhi route and particularly at New Town Faridabad station;

(b) if so, whether any Action Plan has been chalked out by the Government to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that if 4003 Intercity Express is provided with a halt at New Town Faridabad station and the same is extended upto New Delhi it will meet the genuine demand of the people of this area; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. During the morning and evening peak hours.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no plan to introduce additional trains on Palwal-Faridabad-New Delhi section due to operational and resource constraints. However, EMU rakes on this sector are being progressively augmented to 12 car to meet extra rush.

(d) and (e) Stoppage of 4003 Agra Cantt.-Nizamuddin Express at Faridabad Town has been examined but not found feasible.